



JOURNAL

Welcome to the Journal!

April 28, 2022

A quick and informative snapshot of what's going on around the SC Department of Juvenile Justice!

We welcome all story ideas, photos, and any information you'd like to share with the agency.

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Director's Cut

Eden Hendrick, DJJ Interim Executive Director



These last few weeks at SCDJJ have been busy and exciting. I first want to ensure that all staff are aware that we have entered into a voluntarily settlement agreement with the United States of Department of Justice to avoid court involvement after the results of an investigation at the Broad River Road Complex (BRRC) from 2017-2020. The Settlement Agreement outlines important changes to our policies, procedures, processes, and training around investigations, programming, uses of force, classification, isolation, and responses to youth-on-youth fights, among others. These changes will not happen overnight.

This is a five-year agreement with specific timelines and goals for BRRC. While the Settlement Agreement only specifically mentions BRRC, modifications to any policies, procedures, processes, and training will eventually apply to all our secure facilities. Our SharePoint site has a page dedicated to providing staff with information about the Settlement Agreement and our progress. Currently, there is a Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ) section posted that will hopefully answer many of your questions and allow you send in your own questions that we will answer.

We are implementing many of these important changes as part of the Settlement Agreement, but these are also necessary reforms as part of the shift in culture and mission from an adult corrections-oriented model to a more contemporary juvenile facility rehabilitative model. I hope you will view this as an opportunity for the agency to evolve and improve our ability to treat, educate and rehabilitate youth.

On Friday, April 15, 2022, I announced a new [organizational structure](#) that went into effect the following Monday. The goal of the new organizational structure was to place similar areas within the same divisions to allow each division to concentrate on enhancing programmatic content. The work of each division of SCDJJ impacts the work of another division. We must all work together and focus on improving our communication, relationships, and collaboration across the entire agency.

One example of cross divisional cooperation was the Youth vs. Staff Football Game that took place at BRRC April 21. It was so nice to see so many people from the community come to BRRC to participate in the event as every division contributed to its success. As highlighted in this newsletter, we have been back on track to continuing activities that have been on hold as well as making plans for others in 2022.

Over the past few months, I have sent out quite a few emails introducing some of the new people in key leadership positions. I hope now with the organizational structure put in place, you can see how all the pieces are starting to fit together. We are in the process of updating our website with the profiles of the new Deputy and Associate Deputy's pictures and information, and if you see one of them, please introduce yourself and say hello! They are looking forward to working with each of you.

Again, I appreciate everyone's support and hard work these past several months. SCDJJ has been through a lot, but our people continue to be our backbone, and there are great things on the horizon.

Thank you, from not only me but my entire leadership team for all you do.

SCDJJ Plants new Healing Tree

At a March ceremony at the Broad River Road Complex, the S.C. Department of Juvenile Justice presented the City of Cayce Police Department with a "Healing Tree" – a metal tree conceived and created by the youth at S.C. DJJ.

"We are grateful and excited to partner with the city of Cayce Police department to extend our support for crime victims in their continued recovery process to build their lives," said Angela Kelly, victim services manager, Division of Community Services, at DJJ. "We believe strongly in building support with local, statewide and national victim service professionals to ensure a comprehensive network of services for our victims."

Read more at our website here: [SCDJJ plants new Healing Tree | South Carolina Department of Juvenile Justice](#)





Wallace named Chief of Staff

In early March, DJJ announced that Christine Wallace has been promoted to the position of Chief of Staff for the agency!

Mrs. Wallace began her career at the S.C. Department of Juvenile Justice in 1992 working on the front lines with adolescent youth. Her experience spans more than 30 years working with various child-servicing agencies in an effort to address the various needs of youth and families in South Carolina.

It also includes more than 15 years directly in juvenile justice and numerous years in executive leadership positions.

Please join us in congratulating Christine and wishing her every success! [#TeamDJJ](#)

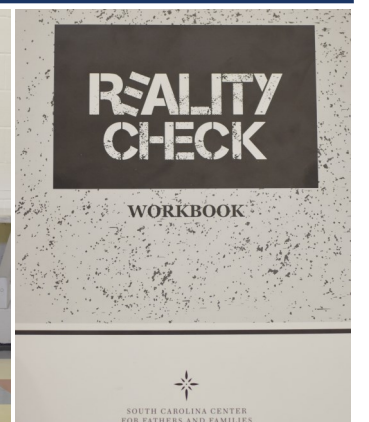
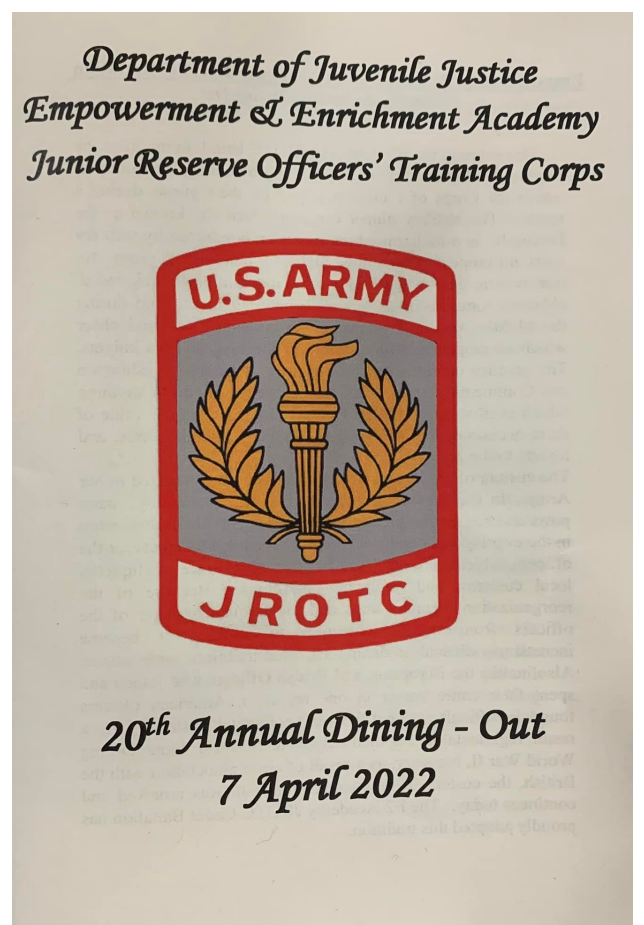
Visitation resumes at DJJ facilities!



E2 Academy hosts JROTC Dining-Out



Wonderful evening at BRRRC as the youth cadets of the E2 Academy JROTC battalion hosted a military Dining-Out event at the Community Connections Center! Maj. Gen. (Ret) Abraham Turner, former commanding general at Fort Jackson, SC, was the guest speaker. We're proud of all of these youth!



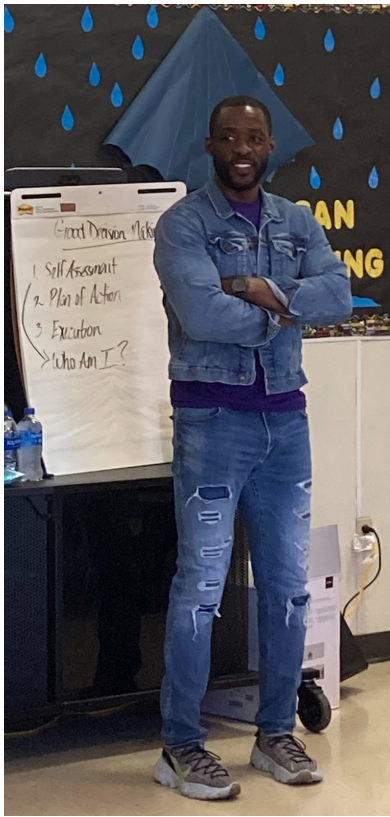
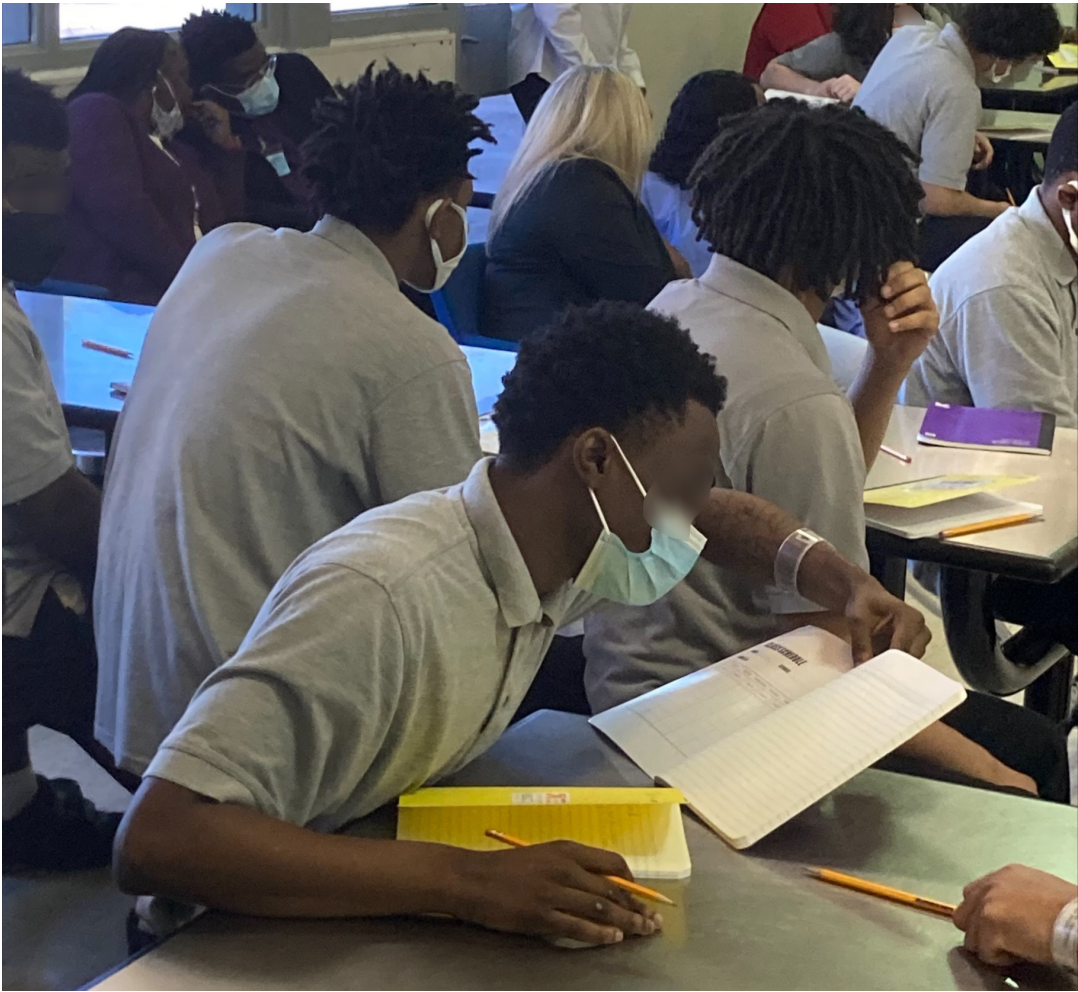
The SCDJJ is currently partnering with the [Midlands Fatherhood Coalition](#) to teach our youth a course called "Reality Check," which is a program to educate and assist young fathers. This is a grant funded program and this year is the first the volunteers have been allowed to come to BRRRC due to COVID. We appreciate them working with us to help our youth make good choices! [#TeamSCDJJ](#) [#CommunityPartnership](#)

Community Partnership!

Cyrus Birch visits CEC

Charleston native Cyrus Birch visited CEC April 22, 2022. He began modeling and acting 3 years ago and was a part of the cast of the previously largest box office movie on the globe, "The Black Panther." Cyrus is using his platform to speak to today's generation concerning finding their purpose and pursuing their passion with reckless abandonment. Cyrus is the president of 'Roses in Concrete.' RIC is a non-profit organization that focuses on youth empowerment through leadership, career development, post-secondary education goal setting and athletics, namely basketball.

Mr. Birch will be mentoring the youth at The Coastal Evaluation Center on a volunteer basis. His goal is to stimulate the youth by helping them to find their purpose in life by reaching their full potential, which starts even before being released back into the community.



Youth vs Staff Flag Football at BRRC April 21, 2022



Clarendon and Orangeburg County DJJ offices support local Career Day events!





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